

## Lois lends a hand at Oakland Humane Society

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Lois Vitale, vendor audit, is crazy about animals and the animals at the Oakland Humane Society are crazy about Lois. Not only does she volunteer her time to take care of the paperwork for the shelter, but she also brings in food, blankets, newspapers, kitty litter and other necessities needed to care for the animals.

"I love animals," Lois says. I've been working there since last April and was recently voted to the Board of Directors."

The Oakland Humane Society, a non-profit organization, is one of the few shelters in the area that doesn't end up destroying the animals if they are not claimed. They will accept any creature, large or small. The animal is fed, exercised, housed and loved until someone offers to buy it.

"Some of the animals have been there for two or more years," Lois says. "Because times are hard now, people leave their animals with us

because they can't afford to care of them. Sometimes in the morning, a volunteer will find a puppy tied to the door of the shelter or a mother cat and a litter of kittens. We take them all."

When an animal is sick or needs veterinary attention, it is cared for at the shelter's expense. There is a vet that visits on the weekends to make sure the animals are healthy and to administer treatment to those who need it. The vet also gives instructions to



volunteers on how to care for a wounded animal. Presently, the shelter has about 150 dogs and 70 cats. Many are AKC registered.

The shelter recently instituted a program they call Adopt-A-Dog. It is for people who would like a dog but can't have one for a particular reason. A \$10-\$25 monthly donation will feed and house their adopted pet.

Lois collects newspapers, plastic margarine dishes, dog and cat food coupons, blankets and any other animal supplies. Every payday, she makes a trip to the shelter to deliver 50 pound bags of food and the donated items.

The shelter is always in need of these supplies. Since it is a non-profit organization, they rely solely on the donations from animal lovers.

So, instead of throwing away week-old newspapers and margarine containers, contact Lois at 31180 and she'll put them to good use.

## Bright ideas pay off

The old adage "A penny for your thoughts" wasn't geared towards our suggestion system. But how does 25, 50 or maybe even 500 dollars sound?

By submitting a "better idea" to our suggestion department, you could end up 25 to 500 dollars richer.

"We want people to think and make suggestions," says Barbara Ritchey of the suggestions system

But, you might ask, "What can I think of that will be original enough to help the company and earn an award?"

Well, recall those times when you sat in the cafeteria during break or lunch and, just in passing, mentioned to a friend that K mart should do this or that to save themselves a little money. Now go a step beyond that and write it down. Suggestion forms are available in most vending machine areas, or in Barbara's office - 323N.

Here's a hint for an idea: useful subjects on energy, safety or security are quite good.

People like Kay Connelley, construction, and Wilma Williams, mens' and boys' wear do quite a bit of thinking because they won top notcher awards for 1980. This is Kay's second top notcher award.

A top notcher award is given after a participant has made five suggestions that have been awarded prizes.

"I'm running out of ideas!" teases Kay who's been brainstorming ideas since 1976. "Most of my ideas are about the area I work in, such as changing form letters in the department."

Wilma says she can't remember how long she has been adding to our suggestion system, but says it was before we moved into this building.

"It's taken me a while to get this top notcher award," Wilma says, "and I hope it doesn't take me that long for the next one."

There is no set method that Wilma uses for dreaming up her ideas.

"I think of them just by looking around and observing. Most of them have something to do with our department," Wilma has been in mens' and boys' wear since 1964.

We have a suggestion committee of nine, headed by Senior Buyer Emil Olson, who determine the worth of the suggestion and appropriately award the monies.

If, in the future, they find that the suggestion has benefited the company more than they initially thought it would, they may re-evaluate and possibly give another award.

More and more companies are introducing the suggestion system. "It's a way to get employees involved with the company," Barbara explains. "When they really feel a part of the working structure, the employees will get more out of their jobs."

